DC

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HARLEY QUINN

PHILLIPS
ROSSMO
PLASCENCIA

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DC FESTIVAL OF HEROES

THE ASIAN SUPERHERO CELEBRATION

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WRITTEN BY GENE LUEN YANG • RAM V • GREG PAK • ALYSSA WONG • MARIKO TAMAKI • MINH LÊ • AUDREY MOK • AND MORE

ART BY MARCUS TO • BERNARD CHANG • DUSTIN NGUYEN • MARCIO TAKARA • TRUNG LE NGUYEN • SEAN CHEN • AND MORE COVER BY JIM LEE

A 100-PAGE ANTHOLOGY | AVAILABLE IN MAY

ONE MASTER'S DEGREE...

A YEAR OF DOCTORAL INTERNSHIPS...

MULTIPLE COUNSELING CERTIFICATIONS...

...AND ONE WAY-TOO-EXPENSIVE PHD IN PSYCHOLOGY.

BUT I GUESS IT DOESN'T MATTER HOW MANY DEGREES A GIRL'S GOT...

...SHE COULD STILL END UP FIGHTIN' A COUPLE'A ANGRY PSYCHIATRIC ORDERLIES WHILE WEARING FURRY BOOTS AND SCUBA GEAR.

I'M GETTING A LITTLE AHEAD OF MYSELF HERE...

DC COMICS PROUDLY PRESENTS HARLEY QUINN

STRANGE TIMES

STEPHANIE PHILLIPS WRITER **RILEY ROSSMO** ARTIST **IVAN PLASCENCIA** COLORS
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HARLEY QUINN CREATED BY **PAUL DINI** AND **BRUCE TIMM**

THREE HOURS EARLIER.
GOTHAM CITY HALL.

IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT FOLLOWING THE EVENTS OF THE **JOKER WAR,** WE FIND OUR CITY **STRUGGLING** AND **FRACTURED.**

I'M KEENLY AWARE OF THE NEEDS OF THIS CITY AND ITS PEOPLE, AND DESPITE THESE RECENT ATTACKS, I BELIEVE THAT GOTHAM CITY **WILL** ENDURE.

AFTER I DECIDED TO MOVE BACK TO GOTHAM...I THOUGHT THINGS WOULD BE ***DIFFERENT.***

THE JOKER...

TWO-FACE...

PUNCHLINE...

...EVEN THE **BATMAN...**

GOTHAM HAS SURVIVED ALL OF THIS AND **MORE.**

WE ARE A CITY THAT, TIME AND TIME AGAIN, HAS RISEN FROM THE ASHES ONLY TO FALL ONCE MORE AT THE HANDS OF ANOTHER **MASKED MENACE.**

PUTTIN' A GUN TO THE HEAD OF YOUR ***MANIPULATIVE EX*** *CAN REALLY GIVE YOU A LITTLE* ***PERSPECTIVE...***

THAT IS WHY I BELIEVE THAT IT'S TIME FOR A ***NEW*** APPROACH...

*I'M NOT SAYING I EXPECT MY OWN **HARLEY-SIGNAL** LIGHTIN' UP THE GOTHAM SKYLINE OR ANYTHIN' LIKE THAT...*

...AN APPROACH THAT WILL WORK TOWARDS ***HEALING*** GOTHAM'S CITIZENS, AND NOT JUST BUILDING OVER ***THE DEBRIS.***

AND SO, IT IS MY PLEASURE TO INTRODUCE TO YOU ALL THE NEW HEAD OF GOTHAM'S SECURE AND FEARLESS ENGAGEMENT PROGRAM, OR ***S.A.F.E.***

PUNCH PUNCHLINE

DR. HUGO STRANGE.

*...BUT CAN WE AGREE IT'S PRETTY **STRANGE** THAT THIS CITY HANDS OUT **SECOND CHANCES** TO MALADJUSTED MISFITS LIKE HALLOWEEN CANDY TO EVERYONE **BUT** ME...?*

THANK YOU FOR THE ***WARM WELCOME,*** MAYOR NAKANO.

*AND I MEAN **LITERALLY** STRANGE.*

I AM SURE THE NAME ***HUGO STRANGE*** IS NOT UNFAMILIAR TO SOME OF YOU.

I HAVE NOT ALWAYS BEEN AN ***ALLY*** TO YOUR CITY...

BUT, MY OWN PERSONAL ***REFORMATION*** IS WHAT MAKES ME THE BEST...***NAY***...THE ***ONLY*** PERSON FOR THIS JOB.

I KNOW WHAT IT'S LIKE TO MAKE A ***BAD DECISION*** AND WHAT IT MEANS TO MAKE ***AMENDS*** FOR THOSE ACTIONS.

THAT IS WHY ***S.A.F.E.*** IS ABOUT ***HEALING.*** IT'S ABOUT ***REFORM.*** AND IT'S ABOUT ***ACCOUNTABILITY.***

NO MORE CLOWNS

DOWN WITH CLOWN

GOTHAM IS OVERRUN BY ***CLOWNS.*** THE VERY PEOPLE COMPLICIT IN THE ACTIONS OF THE ***JOKER*** COULD BE ANYWHERE... ***DOING ANYTHING...*** AND ALL ***WITHOUT*** CONSEQUENCE.

THE ***S.A.F.E.*** PROGRAM...***MY*** PROGRAM...IS HERE TO CHANGE THAT.

AS A ***TRAINED*** PSYCHIATRIST, I PLAN TO GIVE MY ***ALL*** TO HELP GOTHAM ROOT OUT THESE ***CHAOTIC CLOWNS.***

WITH ***ARKHAM ASYLUM*** ATTACKED AND ABANDONED... ***S.A.F.E.*** WILL BE A NEW ***HOME*** FOR THESE TROUBLED INDIVIDUALS. AND I MAKE THIS CITY A ***PROMISE...***

I ***WILL*** FIND THE CLOWNS.

I ***WILL...*** ***HELP*** THE CLOWNS.

VERY POWERFUL STUFF HAPPENING ***LIVE*** AT THE PRESS CONFERENCE TODAY...

...UNEXPECTED GUEST ***DR. HUGO STRANGE*** HAS JUST MADE A MOVING APOLOGY TO THE PEOPLE OF GOTHAM.

SPLAT

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU ALL, BUT DR. STRANGE'S WORDS MAKE ME BELIEVE THAT MAYBE SECOND CHANCES--

THAT'S ***NOT*** A *@$#*!@ APOLOGY...!

VectorStock

...HAS THIS WOMAN EVER *HEARD* AN APOLOGY BEFORE...?

'CAUSE USUALLY PEOPLE APOLOGIZING SAY THE WORDS "*I'M SORRY*"!

HEY! GET OFF THE COUNTER!

WHAT? DON'T TELL ME ANY OF YA BELIEVED THAT BIG LOAD OF *B.S.?*

I MEAN... *SECURE AND FEARLESS ENGAGEMENT...*

WHAT DOES THAT EVEN *MEAN?*

YOU NEED TO *LEAVE* OR I'M CALLING THE COPS.

LEAVE?

BUT...BUT I HAVEN'T GOTTEN MY MOCHA LATTE WITH *EXTRA* MOCHA YET.

I'LL CLEAN UP THE MESS...I'M SORRY.

MAYBE I COULD JUST GET A COFFEE TO GO, OR--

STAMPEDERS

WING COFFEE

BUT... WAIT...I SAID I'M SORRY!

AND *DON'T* COME BACK!

AGH!

FOR THE RECORD...I AM THE *ONLY* PERSON WHO HAS *APOLOGIZED* TODAY!

HOW AM I SUPPOSED TO HELP THE CLOWNS AND IMPRESS BATMAN WITHOUT *CAFFEINE?*

EVEN THE BARISTAS GOT IT IN FOR ME IN THIS TOWN...

HEY...HEY HARLEY... *WAIT UP!*

HEY, KEVIN. I KNOW WE HAD PLANS...BUT IT'S BEEN A ***REALLY*** BAD DAY.

IT'S... ***NINE*** IN THE MORNING.

YEAH, AND THAT'S ***ENOUGH*** DAY FOR ME, THANK YOU. I COULDN'T EVEN GET A LOUSY COFFEE...

I GOT YOU ONE. WELL, ***FOUR*** ACTUALLY.

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT KIND YOU'D WANT, SO I GOT A ***VARIETY...***

THERE'S A LATTE, AND A BLACK COFFEE, AND...*UMM*...THE ONE ON THE RIGHT'S GOT CREAM, NO... WAIT...

...THE LEFT ONE HAS CREAM...OR... IS THAT THE CARAMEL ONE...?

KEVIN, YOU GOT THESE FOR... ***ME?***

WELL...YEAH. I...I WANTED TO SAY ***THANK YOU.***

IF YOU DIDN'T STOP HIM...BATMAN WOULD'VE...HE WOULD'VE ***REALLY GIVEN*** IT TO ME.

THANKS, KEV. THAT'S...WELL, I ***NEEDED*** THAT AFTER THE MORNING I'VE--

PFFT!

WHAT THE HELL IS *THAT?*

IT'S JUST...*BLACK COFFEE...*

ONLY *PSYCHO-PATHS* DRINK COFFEE WITHOUT SUGAR.

I'M...I'M SORRY. THERE'S A CARAMEL FRAPPÉ WITH WHIPPED CREAM IF YOU'D--

OH, YES! BUT, MAKE IT *EXTRA* WHIP NEXT TIME.

THE COFFEE HELPS BUT... *I DON'T KNOW*...I'M RETHINKING THIS WHOLE HELPING THE CLOWNS THING, ESPECIALLY WITH *HUGO STRANGE* BACK IN GOTHAM...

STRANGE? I HEARD ABOUT HIM FROM A FEW GUYS WHO DID TIME AT *ARKHAM.*

BUT WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO DO WITH *YOUR* IDEA TO HELP THE CLOWNS?

STRANGE THINKS *HE* IS GOING TO HELP THEM. THAT WAS *MY* THING. THE THING THAT I COULD *FINALLY* DO FOR GOTHAM...

...BUT THIS GUY'S GOT FUNDING, A FULL STAFF, A FACILITY, THE *ADORATION* OF THE *ENTIRE CITY...*

...AND I BET HE'S **NOT** USING A FLAMINGO-SHAPED POOL FLOATIE AS A COUCH IN HIS LIVING ROOM.

I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THEY COULD WANT ***HIM*** OVER--

OH NO.

KEVIN?

YOU OKAY?

WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKIN' AT HERE?

DO YOU KNOW THIS PLACE?

CUTS

LOOKS LIKE A NORMAL ***BURNED-UP*** STOREFRONT IN GOTHAM TO ME.

GOTHAM.
MONTHS AGO.

LET'S BURN THIS PLACE TO THE GROUND!

WHAT'RE YOU WAITIN' FOR, MAN?!

THROW IT, KEV!

I...I DON'T KNOW...MAYBE WE COULD JUST--

YOU'RE ONE OF *US*...

FWSSH

...SO THROW IT!

KSSSH

YEAH!

KHOOM

*$€@. COPS!

TIME TO GO, COMPADRE!

HELP... SOME-ONE!

DID YOU HEAR *THAT?* I THINK SOMEONE'S STILL--

I SAID IT'S TIME TO *GO.*

BUT... I HEARD... THERE'S SOME-ONE INSIDE AND...

I CAN'T JUST--

YOU *CAN.*

AND YOU *DID.*

NO...BUT I DIDN'T...I DIDN'T KNOW SOME-ONE WAS IN THERE...

YOU WANT TO STICK AROUND FOR THE COPS... THAT'S ***YOUR*** PROBLEM!

BUT DON'T EXPECT THE BOSS TO BAIL YOU OUT THIS TIME...

"...THIS TIME, YOU'RE ON YOUR OWN, MAN!"

YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN SILENT...

"EARTH TO KEVIN..."

...ANYONE HOME?

YEAH... YEAH, I'M GOOD. I JUST... REMEMBERED *SOMETHING.*

WELL, I GUESS THE BEST PLACE TO HAVE A ***DISSOCIATIVE EPISODE*** IS IN ***FRONT*** OF A PSYCHOLOGIST.

CAN...CAN I ASK YOU SOME-THING?

SOMETHING ***SERIOUS?***

SURE...BUT YOU'VE KINDA GOT THE SAME LOOK ON YOUR FACE AS THAT GUY IN THE ***LAXATIVE COMMERCIALS...***

WHAT'S UP?

WELL...YOU MOVED BACK TO GOTHAM AND YOU'RE...NOT ***BAD.***

I MEAN--***I'M SORRY...***THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT.

I MEAN, YOU USED TO WORK WITH THE ***JOKER...***

AND NOW YOU'RE... ***FRIENDS*** WITH ***BATMAN...***YOU'RE TRYING TO ***HELP*** THE CLOWNS...

WHAT I'M *TRYING* TO SAY IS...HOW DO YOU *BECOME* GOOD?

I'M THE ONE WHO DID *THIS,* HARLEY... I...BURNED THIS PLACE DOWN.

I MEAN, WHO *HASN'T* BURNED DOWN A TACKY STRIP MALL ON OCCASION?

I'M SERIOUS...YOU'RE A *HERO* NOW...I DON'T DESERVE TO BE WORKING WITH YOU.

WOAH! HEY...KEVIN. YOU SAID IT YOURSELF...I *USED* TO BE A PIECE OF *@*€%.*

YOU KNOW, I ONCE KIDNAPPED THE MAYOR'S WIFE...AND I HAD NO IDEA HYENAS LIKED THE TASTE OF *POMERANIANS...*

YOU SHOULD HAVE *SEEN* HER FACE...IT WAS *HILARIOUS*...BUT *WRONG. DEFINITELY WRONG.* AND I KNOW THAT NOW.

SO, YOU THINK THERE'S *HOPE* FOR ME?

IF *I* CAN GO *GOOD,* THERE'S *DEFINITELY* HOPE FOR YOU, KEV. NOW...

...WHAT D'YA SAY WE SEE IF THERE'S ANYTHIN' GOOD LEFT IN THIS OLD THRIFT STORE?

"I *SHOULDN'T* BE HERE..."

S.A.F.E. FACILITY.
GOTHAM.

...YOU CAN'T *HOLD ME* AGAINST MY WILL!

I'VE TOLD YOU A *MILLION TIMES...*

...I'M *NOT* A CLOWN!

HM.

HRN... GET *OFF* OF ME!

YOU'VE GOT THE *WRONG* GUY!

JUST HOLD STILL...

I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING!

YOU CAN'T KEEP ME HERE...

NO...NO NEEDLES!

SEDATE HIM!

UNGH!

LET HIM TALK...

...I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY.

TELL ME, SON... WHAT IS THE ISSUE?

I SHOULDN'T BE HERE. IT'S A MISTAKE!

I HAD A DISAGREEMENT WITH MY NEIGHBOR... THINGS GOT UGLY.

I THINK... I THINK HE SAW YOUR CALL...ABOUT FINDING CLOWNS.

HE CALLED YOU TO GET BACK AT ME, BUT... I WAS NEVER A CLOWN...I WOULD NEVER HURT ANYONE...

TSK... NEVER?

SEE... THIS IS THE ISSUE.

INABILITY TO TAKE RESPON-SIBILITY.

THAT IS WHAT'S WRONG WITH GOTHAM CITY.

MASK...NO MASK...HONESTLY, IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME.

THIS ENTIRE CITY NEEDS TO TAKE A GOOD LONG LOOK IN THE MIRROR.

IT'S TIME FOR EVERY CITIZEN, CLOWN OR NOT, TO ASK IF THEY DESERVE A PLACE IN THIS CITY. SO, FROM MY PERSPECTIVE...

...YOU'RE RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG.

WAIT... PLEASE!

NO... NO!

WE RECEIVED ANOTHER CALL TO THE HOTLINE, DR. STRANGE.

MORE CLOWNS?

YES, BUT...THIS ONE'S MORE THAN THAT.

SAY WHAT YOU MEAN, **LOCKWOOD.**

IT'S **HARLEY QUINN,** SIR. SHE WAS SPOTTED. **HERE.** IN GOTHAM.

HARLEY QUINN!

TODAY **IS** A GOOD DAY, LOCKWOOD.

WOULD YOU LIKE ME TO COLLECT HER?

DON'T TROUBLE YOURSELF. SEND A FEW OF THE OTHERS TO BRING HER IN.

IT WOULD ONLY BE **MINOR** PUBLICITY AT BEST FOR US TO REFORM THE JOKER'S **LEFT-OVERS.**

BUT, YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY...

"...THE **LOW-HANGING** FRUIT IS THE **EASIEST** TO HARVEST."

LOOKIT ALL THIS ***STUFF.*** IT'S LIKE THE PERFECT ONE-STOP SHOP FOR IRONS, FOAM FINGERS, AND GIANT STUFFED UNICORNS.

EVERYTHIN' A GIRL COULD NEED!

THAT'S THEM...

...THOSE ARE THE ***CLOWNS!***

WHAT NOW...?

MA'AM, WE'RE GOING TO HAVE TO ASK YOU TO COME WITH US BY ORDER OF ***DR. HUGO STRANGE*** AND ***S.A.F.E.***

OH, ***PLEASE...*** MY MOTHER ***MAY*** HAVE CREATED SOME DEVELOPMENTAL ISSUES VIA CHILDHOOD TRAUMA THAT I AM STILL STRUGGLING TO PROCESS...

...BUT ***AT LEAST*** SHE TAUGHT ME BETTER THAN TO GO WITH SOME ***DERANGED*** HOSPITAL ORDERLIES WITH ELECTRIFIED CATTLE PRODS.

I'M NOT AN ***IDIOT.***

THAT ***WASN'T*** A QUESTION...

ALL CLOWNS ARE REQUIRED TO REPORT FOR ***MANDATORY*** THERAPY SESSIONS WITH--

WITH A PSYCHIATRIST WITH A *GOD-COMPLEX?*

WHACK

SORRY, BOYS, BUT I DON'T THINK MY INSURANCE COVERS *THAT...*

ZZZD

OOF!

#1

KSSSH

THUNK

NOW, I'M GONNA NEED TO BORROW YOUR KEYS. *PRETTY PLEASE.*

GIVE HUGO MY REGARDS!

YEAH! WHAT SHE SAID!

BEEP BEEP

BEEP BEEP

NEXT: WHO'S AFRAID OF HUGO STRANGE?

BATMAN

EARTH ONE VOLUME THREE

Is Harvey Dent dead?

Or is he back and seeking revenge on Gotham City?

The final volume in the bestselling graphic novel trilogy

Written by
GEOFF JOHNS

Art by
GARY FRANK

DC

June

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Batman: Earth One Vol. 1

Batman: Earth One Vol. 2

DC NATION SPOTLIGHT ON

STARGIRL

SPRING BREAK SPECIAL #1

Now headlining a television series on The CW, Stargirl makes her triumphant return to comic books with the one-shot *Stargirl Spring Break Special* #1, written by Stargirl co-creator Geoff Johns and illustrated by Todd Nauck. It's the first comic starring the character in years, and sees Stargirl and her stepfather, Pat Dugan—better known as S.T.R.I.P.E.—teaming with the reunited Seven Soldiers of Victory.

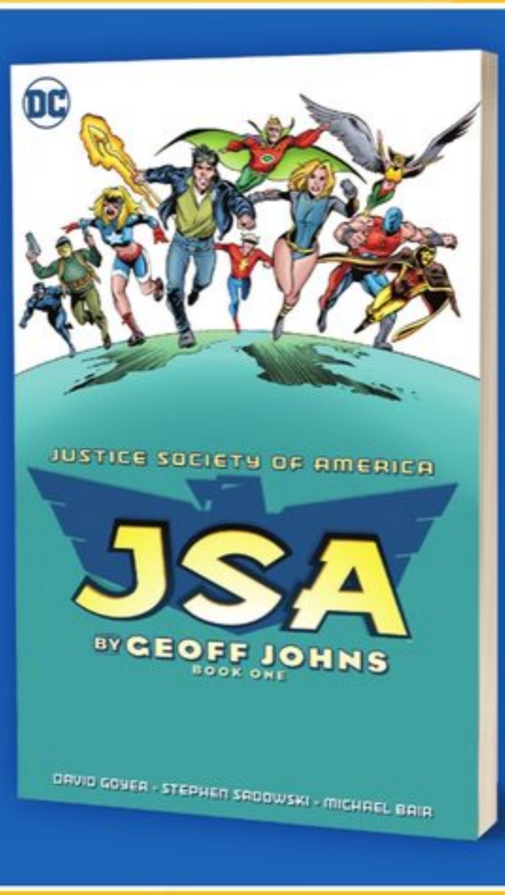
LOOKING FOR EVEN MORE STARGIRL? HERE'S WHERE TO START:

ORIGINS

Courtney Whitmore debuted in 1999's *Stars and S.T.R.I.P.E.* #0, when she was still an average high schooler—until finding out that her stepfather was the former costumed hero known as Stripesy. These early adventures of Courtney, then known as the Star-Spangled Kid, are collected in *Stargirl by Geoff Johns*—the stories that inspired the TV series!

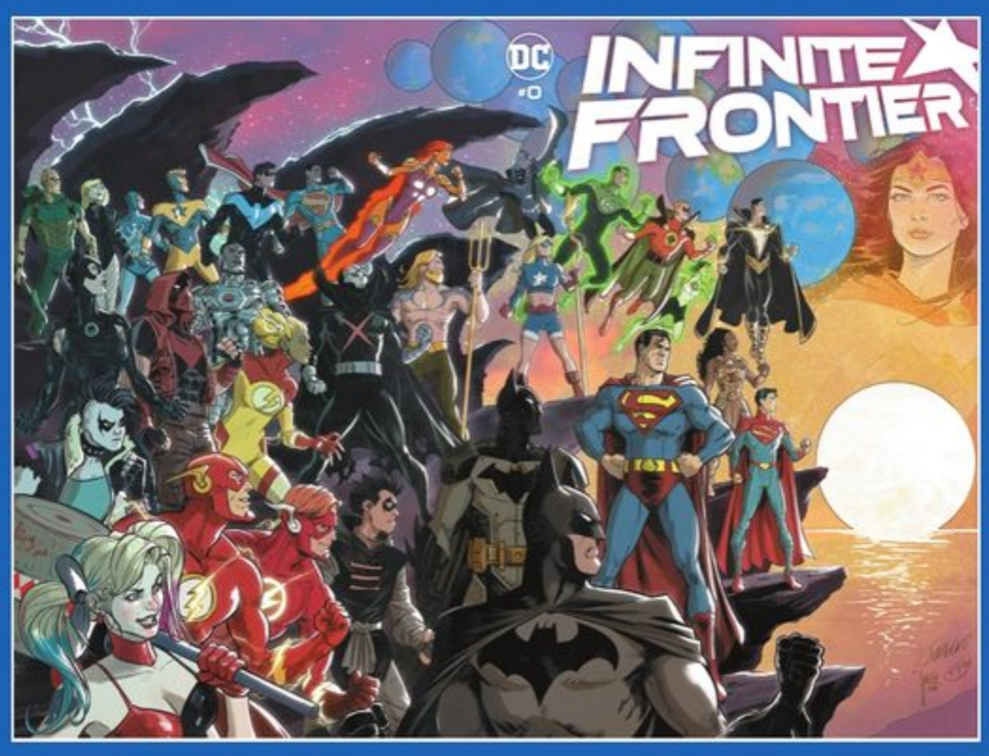
JSA

Early in her heroic career, Courtney joined the Justice Society of America, where she was rechristened Stargirl after being granted Starman's Cosmic Staff. Stargirl was a central part of the team for years, and you can find these acclaimed adventures in *JSA by Geoff Johns* books one through four.



INFINITE FRONTIER #0

Most recently, Stargirl was seen in March's *Infinite Frontier* #0 one-shot—trying to balance life as a typical student at Blue Valley High School, and as a superhero foiling villains like King Midas. All is fairly status quo until Pat gets a fateful phone call—leading directly into *Stargirl Spring Break Special* #1.



DON'T MISS *STARGIRL SPRING BREAK SPECIAL* #1, ON SALE IN MAY!

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